

Starbucks ordered to rehire organizers

Memphis Seven win

By Arjae Red

Back in February, Starbucks made headlines with the most viciously racist union-busting move since the start of its union-busting campaign: the firing of the entire, mostly Black and Brown, union organizing committee at the Poplar and Highland store in Memphis, Tennessee. Now, six months later, these seven workers claimed a major victory over the company, when a federal judge ordered their reinstatement Aug. 18, giving the company five days to offer them their jobs back.

This is a huge victory, not only for the illegally fired Memphis workers, but for all the more than 75 Starbucks workers who have been fired as a result of their union advocacy.

Many workers are hoping that with support for the union spreading across the country, with over 220 unionized stores and an 82% success rate in elections, with increasingly militant strikes such as the strike in Boston, which has now been going strong for over five weeks, and now with a legal precedent for rehiring fired organizers, that other fired union supporters will have a chance at getting their jobs back — with back pay!

Starbucks, of course, opposed the judge’s decision, saying the company “strongly disagrees” and intends to appeal and delay the process. Delaying is a tactic



The Memphis 7, shortly after Starbucks fired them, in front of mural honoring Black workers’ 1968 sanitation strike. PHOTO: STARBUCKS WORKERS UNITED

used often by the company. On Aug. 15, Starbucks asked the National Labor Relations Board to temporarily suspend new union votes, alleging that NLRB officials collaborated with the union.

This accusation is based on the claim that the NLRB allowed some workers, who did not receive mail ballots, to submit ballots in person during a mail-in vote at one store in Overland Park, Kansas. Starbucks Workers United responded by stating: “Unfortunately, it’s now in vogue

for the losers of some elections nationwide to attempt to reverse elections by any means they think are necessary.”

The union pointed out that Starbucks claims to stand for voter protections, yet the corporation is moving to suppress union elections across the country. Up to this point, the line repeated by the company has been: “We want every partner to vote,” — unless of course the vote is for the union, then they will challenge it any way they can. Starbucks did this to

the Walden-Anderson store in Buffalo, New York, where a revote was forced by the company after the workers won the previous election, despite the store being closed for over two months and with many pro-union workers forced out.

The revote ended with a loss for the union by only one vote, which clearly would have been a victory without the relentless union busting over the last few months. As a result of all this, the Walden-Anderson workers are on strike at the time of this writing.


Starbucks trying every trick to break union drive

The desperate move by the company to halt the elections by accusing the NLRB of colluding with the union comes off as nothing short of absurd to workers and the general public. When Starbucks blatantly violates labor law, resulting in hundreds of Unfair Labor Practice charges, routinely interferes with the right of workers to organize, fires and forces out hundreds of workers, and then is found guilty of illegal anti-union activity — as they were in the case of the Memphis Seven — that is not NLRB collusion with the union.

That is just what occasionally happens when a company breaks the law. All too often corporations get away with little more than a slap on the wrist from the

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Shut Stewart DOWN!

Honoring Albert Woodfox

Attica brother’s tribute to George Jackson

Bradford Gamble, ¡Presente!

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The Hot Labor Summer Day

March for Recognition



monday september 5th

Noon- Howard Schultz’s house- 155 west 11th St.

1:30- Jeff Bezos’ penthouse- 313 5th Ave.

3:00- Times Square- NY, NY

Join the Amazon Labor Union at 12 noon, Sept. 5 at Howard Schultz’s house, 155 West 11th St., NYC.

On Labor Day, hail workers in motion!

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Workers World/Mundo Obrero newspaper cheers on the Amazon and Starbucks workers who are leading struggles to unionize their workplaces. These mainly young people of many nationalities and genders are in the forefront of the class struggle in the U.S. Their bold actions have sparked an upsurge of worker-led union drives in other companies and industries. Their bravery in defying vicious corporate union busting is inspiring workers around the country.

This newspaper has closely followed and featured reports on the organizing drives of Amazon and Starbucks workers and recent unionization campaigns at Trader Joe's, Chipotle, REI, Apple and other companies.

On this year's Labor Day, WW expresses solidarity with these workers, all those celebrating union pride on this day, and the unorganized and low-wage earners who are fighting for workplace rights and a union. We laud the workers, especially young people, women, other gender-oppressed and LGBTQ2S+ people, Black, Latinx, Indigenous, Asian, Arab and immigrants, who are fighting for all workers. Since Workers World's first issue in 1959, the newspaper has featured coverage of workers' struggles. Our newspaper is partisan, siding with workers and oppressed people fighting for their rights against capitalist bosses. The struggles of our class are covered in our pages and in our biweekly column "On the Picket Line." Not only does WW write about worker organizing, but our writers and staff members join picket lines and rallies!

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Workers World relies on our readers' backing. The WW Supporter Program was founded 45 years ago to help build this socialist newspaper. Since the early 1990s, the fund has supported the website workers.org, where WW articles are posted daily and the PDF file of every weekly paper is displayed.

Unforeseen circumstances during the pandemic caused us to reduce the number of printed issues to



PHOTO: GABBY JONES

Workers World attended this New York City rally on Oct. 21, 2021, in solidarity with Amazon Labor Union's petition for an NLRB election at the JFK8 warehouse in Staten Island, New York. The ALU won this historic victory!

once a month. But the weekly online newspaper has never been skipped during this 2 1/2-year health crisis. And while WW's staff is voluntary, both the printed newspaper and the website require monthly expenses. Although many online publications require fees to read their articles, WW does not. Our articles are free to all readers.

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Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people's movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and

worldwide. If you're interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you. □

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MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

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Inflation Reduction Act increases Appalachian climate crisis

By Workers World West Virginia bureau
Charleston, West Virginia

After an Aug. 7 Senate passage, the “Inflation Reduction Act” (IRA) passed the U.S. House of Representatives Aug. 12, and President Joe Biden signed it into law Aug. 16.

The IRA, disingenuously referred to as “the Climate Bill,” is an omnibus bill that encompasses some parts of the previous Democratic Party-proposed “Build Back Better” bill and has provisions to reduce carbon emissions by roughly 40% by 2030. It is being touted as “historic” by Democratic politicians, corporate media pundits, moderates and even some “progressives.”

The bill is supported by the arch reactionary Democratic Senator from West Virginia, Joe Manchin. An Aug. 4 Workers World article, “Manchin bill could worsen climate crisis,” pointed out: “Among its key provisions are generous tax credits for technologies like carbon capture and storage and low-emissions hydrogen fuels.”

Serious regional exploitation

A major concern for many in this region is how the bill may allow for completion of the controversial Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP), a 303-mile pipeline designed to go from northwest West Virginia to southwest Virginia and then to a delivery point in North Carolina. The pipeline would carry gas that is fracked from the Marcellus and Utica Shales.

Sen. Manchin has prevented the passage of climate justice legislation in the past, because he is a well-funded puppet of union-busting coal companies, along with the oil and gas fracking industry. Provisions Manchin had added to the IRA could make it easier for MVP to be built through “eminent domain.” This allows the state to legally displace people for “public use,” and in this case, a pipeline would be designated for “public use.”

As a result of Manchin’s intervention, the final draft of the IRA received glowing approval from the company behind the MVP, Equitrans Midstream Corporation.

According to a Roanoke Times article, “An [Equitrans Midstream] spokeswoman Natalie Cox wrote in an email that it [the IRA] ‘would address issues that have presented costly, time-consuming delays in the construction of energy infrastructure projects and supports Americans’ demands to execute a timely transition to clean energy, while at the same time ensuring energy reliability and affordability.’” (Aug. 15)

Equitrans Midstream started constructing the MVP in 2018, but the project has been put on hold for a host of reasons. For legal purposes, the company is waiting on permit approvals and reissues from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Land Management.

Equitrans Midstream bosses are confident the IRA could make it easier for them to “complete their mission.” Additionally, Manchin is trying to get all lawsuits against the project out of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the



PHOTO: CRYSTAL CAVALIER-KECK

About 90 people participated in the May 2021 Water Walk against the extension of the Mountain Valley Pipeline from southwest Virginia into North Carolina.

Fourth Circuit, based in Richmond, Virginia, and into the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, which he believes will be more favorable towards Equitrans Midstream and the MVP. (Mountain State Spotlight, Aug. 15)

Noble examples of resistance

It is no coincidence that areas in Appalachia, subjected to centuries of resource extraction by mining and other energy companies, have experienced horrible flooding in recent weeks. Corporations that have benefited financially from ecological plunder rarely reclaim land they destroy. They never assist in rebuilding devastated infrastructure brought down by their “bottom line.”



PHOTO: CRYSTAL CAVALIER-KECK

Women, including Crystal Cavalier-Keck and Desiree Shelley, led the May 2021 Water Walk against the Mountain Valley Pipeline.

Poor people and people of color suffer the most from environmental damage in Appalachia, while capitalist politicians like Manchin receive campaign funds and kickbacks from the companies responsible for ecological destruction.

Several people began fighting against the construction of the MVP early on. Crystal Cavalier-Keck, a member

of the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation, began doing research in 2018 when she found out the pipeline would carry natural gas about 75 miles from Pittsylvania County, Virginia, to a delivery point in Alamance County, North Carolina, ending roughly five miles from her home. Cavalier-Keck then started a campaign to inform others about the dangers posed by the MVP. (grist.org, Oct. 15, 2021)

Another Indigenous activist who organized early is Desiree Shelley, a leader of the climate justice organization Mothers Out Front. Shelley lives about eight miles from the MVP’s route in Roanoke County, Virginia. She was originally from Baltimore but moved to Virginia in 2017 to raise her family closer to the Monacan Nation center in Amherst County.

A Sept. 28, 2020, article in the Appalachian Voice quoted Shelley on the devastation she has witnessed over the years. She stated that ever since the MVP work started in 2018, when there has been a heavy rain, she can see sedimentation draining into the drinking water source for the city of Roanoke, Virginia: “I can drive along the road and see the stream overflowing, and the damage that it’s doing to people’s farms. ... I can just see how brown the water is.”

This article documents the experience of an elder in Monroe County, West Virginia, Maury Johnson, who claims his water supply has been unfit for consumption, cooking and cleaning since construction of the MVP began close to his rural home. Johnson has filed over 182 complaints against the pipeline, and he claims more than 100 other people across the state have done the same.

The trap of the Democratic Party

While most leaders of the Republican Party openly embrace white supremacy and express disregard for the environment, the Democratic Party attempts to present itself as a “lesser evil” alternative. But despite its efforts at times to appear “progressive,” the Democratic Party is a capitalist organization that harbors big-business-backed bigots like Joe Manchin.

Segments of the Democratic Party’s previous “Build Back Better” bill were designed to improve material conditions for workers and oppressed people. But its partial commitment to developing green, sustainable jobs is pointless, when other for-profit ventures will continue to pollute the air workers breathe and poison the water people drink.

If Democratic Party leaders were serious about combating climate change, they would make a good faith effort to collaborate and cooperate with the government of the People’s Republic of China, now in the process of implementing the world’s largest system to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

Instead, leaders of the Democratic Party, in lockstep with their Republican counterparts, are engaging in economic and political provocations against China. Revolutionary socialism is the only true alternative to either of these capitalist parties and their toxic legislation. □

Memphis Seven win

Continued from page 1

toothless NLRB. A few rulings in favor of the union and accommodations made for receiving ballots in person for voters who did not receive mail-in ballots is hardly collusion.

These scurrilous accusations on the part of Starbucks, as with the firing of the Memphis Seven and so many others, are a flagrant attempt by a megacorporation to squelch the rising tide of labor solidarity sweeping the country. But this youth-led, multinational and multigendered working class is proving to be far more formidable than Starbucks and the capitalist class ever anticipated.

The author is a Workers World contributing writer and a union committee organizer with Starbucks Workers United in Buffalo.



Starbucks workers on strike in Jacksonville, Florida, Aug. 1.



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Members of the Memphis Seven at New York City May Day march.

Shut Stewart Detention Center DOWN!

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Lumpkin, Georgia

On Saturday, Aug. 20, immigrant rights activists brought their outrage to the gates of the Stewart Detention Center, operated by CoreCivic, which runs prisons and detention centers for profit. After months of inaction, the male nurse named in sexual assault charges by four women detainees is still on the job.

One of the survivors, a 22-year-old woman named Maria, described how the experience has impacted her emotionally and psychologically. CoreCivic personnel as well as ICE agents essentially accused her of lying and threatened her with a

seven-year prison sentence. She defiantly told the supportive crowd, she “would not be quiet.”

The protest was organized by several groups including Georgia Detention Watch, Coalition to Shut Down ICE in Georgia, El Refugio and Sur Legal. □



PHOTO: ELIJAH NOUVELAGE

August 20, outside Stewart Detention Center in Lumpkin, Georgia.

Five-week Starbucks strike encampment

Young workers’ movement faces down Boston police

By Steve Gillis
Boston

The longest strike in Starbucks’ history, at Boston’s 874 Commonwealth Ave. shop, concluded its fifth week Aug. 21 with solidarity appearances by Association of Flight Attendants-CWA President Sara Nelson and Senator Bernie Sanders. A movement of young workers and veteran unionists in Boston that coalesced to support the striking baristas has grown more determined than ever to see it through to victory.

The strike that began July 18—just five weeks after the workers’ landslide National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) union vote—was provoked by a new openly-Trumpite store manager sent in from southern New Hampshire. This manager’s union-busting agenda included slashing workers’ hours to below the level to qualify for benefits and constant racist, homophobic and transphobic interactions, like removing the rainbow Pride flag—an affront to the many LGBTQ2S+ workers.

Starbucks’ Pinkerton machine didn’t expect workers’ defiance to its blatant Unfair Labor Practices at this highly profitable store across the street from Boston University. The same week the Boston strike began, billionaire CEO Howard Schultz—who ran for president in the 2020 Democratic primaries and was announced to be Hillary Clinton’s pick for Labor Secretary in 2016—launched a massive union-intimidation campaign. He blamed Democratic Party-governed cities for a lack of police to provide “safety” to his stores, while he closed dozens of shops, many of them newly unionized, overnight.

While Schultz’s media blitz was underway, strikers constructed a 24/7 tent encampment in front of the store’s entrance.

As if to believe his own “Big Lie,” on Aug. 8 in Boston, Schultz ordered up cop details and arrest wagons, from this bastion of Democratic Party control—who at 5:00 a.m. escorted scab crews through the picket line in an attempt to open the shop. The Democratic city’s cops went out of their way to make strikebreakers “clean play” three weeks-worth of rotting food and haul away patio furniture strikers had been using, while warning strikers of arrest should they interfere with deliveries, which otherwise have been halted by Teamster solidarity.

Once the Boston Police Department showed up, the parade of Democratic Party politicians, who had stopped by the strike line the previous three weeks for photo ops, disappeared. On day one of the scab attack, the only political figures to show up were Tanisha Sullivan, president of the Boston NAACP, and Kendra Lara, first term Boston City Councilor and first person of color to represent her neighborhood. They were outraged by the sudden appearance of armed cops.

Solidarity tips the scales for strikers

With the balance of forces between 20 baristas on one side against one of the world’s largest corporations backed by the armed force of the state, strike line solidarity—which drew in thousands of mostly young workers and supporters and had sustained the 24/7 strike encampment—stepped into round-the-clock emergency defense, raising the demand, “Scabs and Cops Out Now!”

Strike defense has included “Mega-Picket” rallies, militant Karaoke, a baby-strike 30-day birthday party and sidewalk swing dance lessons. The strike line is a social hotspot for this generation, which

has grown up under capitalism’s student debt peonage and climate crisis and in the Black Lives Matter atmosphere. It has become the place in town for workers assembling safely in-person (some hybrid by Zoom) to develop flexible tactics and strategies, often spinning on a dime to face unexpected conditions.

Multiple times a day and through the wee hours, workers meet in almost government-like fashion, figuring out what to do and how to carry out and enforce decisions which have life-and-death consequences for strikers facing destitution and no health insurance. Workers from adjacent Target, CVS, Amazon, Chipotle and Taco Bell stores, along with Greater Boston Labor Council constituent unions, have been supplying food, water, shelter and other supplies.

Emergency Committees take up fundraising for “Strike and Striker Defense”; organize flying squads to organize new shops and inoculate potential replacement workers; correspond with the NLRB, lawyers, media, supporters and hundreds of Starbucks Workers United (SBWU) units across the country; make contract demands; and carry out a sophisticated

rank and file-run “Workers’ Truth” media campaign.

In over 40 years of partisan covering of every Boston-area strike since President Ronald Reagan busted PATCO (the former union of air traffic controllers) in 1981, this reporter has never experienced such a political, anti-capitalist, vibrant, united front of socialist-minded workers materialize in defense of a strike—conscious of themselves as a class force and optimistic of victory.

As of this writing, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, the first woman and person of color elected in the 400+ year history of “America’s Hometown,” has withdrawn the Boston police. The Democratic establishment, including former Boston mayor now U.S. Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh, and Starbucks’ union-avoidance lawyers and “Global Intelligence” goons are trying to figure out their next moves—which should be (but aren’t) immediate negotiations to settle the strike.

Workers World encourages all readers within travel distance to sign up for shifts on the strike line today at tinyurl.com/c6btbp93.

Donate to the Boston SBWU Strike



WW PHOTO: MAUREEN SKEHAN

Boston Starbucks Workers United leaders, strikers and supporters at the 874 Commonwealth Ave. encampment Aug. 7, the day before the first scab/police attack.

Defense Fund, set up by the Greater Boston Labor Council. (tinyurl.com/2p84m2wc)

Read more at workers.org.

ALL OUT to Defend #874onStrike!

Steve Gillis is an elected leader and 37-year member of the Boston School Bus Drivers Union, USW Local 8751, now working for the union’s members and retired from driving. □

Amazon: No letup in the

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

The surge of rank-and-file worker organizing continues in the U.S., spearheaded by Amazon and Starbucks workers and spreading to a growing list of chains including Trader Joe’s, Chipotle, Apple and REI.

Corporations have struck back with vicious union busting, including firing workers, pitting workers against each other with differential benefits, closing stores, challenging National Labor Relations Board decisions—and even hiring as “Manager for Global Intelligence” a former Pinkerton and CIA agent! (See Workers World, “Starbucks recruits CIA goon,” Aug. 11.)

Under Black leadership, the independent, grassroots Amazon Labor Union scored the first historic victory at Amazon—the second-largest private employer in the U.S.—when workers voted April 1 for union representation at the **Staten Island, New York, warehouse known as JFK8**. Workers at other Amazon facilities have continued to accelerate the pace of organizing and resistance.

Workers at the Schodack, New York, Amazon warehouse (ALB1), just outside Albany, announced Aug. 16 they were filing for a NLRB-supervised election to affiliate with the Amazon Labor Union. About 400 workers will be eligible to vote.

Heather Goodall, a lead organizer with ALB 1 Voices United, said the workers’ main concerns are a living wage and job safety and security: “We can’t have employees ... every day worried, ‘Can I get a drink? It’s 90 degrees in here; I feel like I’m going to pass out, and I need to stay hydrated.’ We need to know that people aren’t going to come to work, and, God forbid, risk their life. ... That is a risk that every single day employees take when they walk into this building. ... We need security for workers to come to work and be paid a fair wage in an environment that’s safe and provides job security.” (wamc.org, Aug. 18)



Organizer Heather Goodall, center, announces Amazon workers at the Schodack, New York, warehouse are filing for a unionization vote, Aug. 16.

In North Carolina, at Amazon’s RDU1 warehouse, C.A.U.S.E. (Carolina Amazonians United for Solidarity and Empowerment) has been vigorously organizing an official union campaign since March. At the Garner warehouse in the Raleigh-Durham area, workers are dynamic—on the ground and on social media—in sharing news about Amazon organizing.

The uprising of workers in the U.S holds the potential to transform the relation of the people to capitalism—and advance toward socialism—under the leadership of people of color, and young, women, gender-oppressed and LGBTQ2S+ workers.

In a July 6 Twitter video, Amazon worker “Darren” said RDU1 reminds him of his time in prison, “from the constant surveillance, short breaks, harassment of racist security guards, to the cheap labor.” In an Aug. 16 Twitter post, C.A.U.S.E.



PHOTO: C.A.U.S.E.

C.A.U.S.E. organizers Mary Hill and Ryan Brown at the Garner, North Carolina, Amazon warehouse.

alerted: “Over 100 #RDU1 employees terminated in the last couple of days. Heed our warnings about #RDU1 Sr. Ops wanting to clean house” [because of union activity].

More Perfect Union broke the news July 7 that workers at **Amazon warehouse SDF1 in Campbellsville, Kentucky**, were affiliating with the Amazon Labor Union. On Aug. 19, C.A.U.S.E. posted this message from Matt Littrell, a picker at SDF1 and chair of the local organizing committee: “After months of organizing and facing retaliation from Amazon, I have been terminated. Today, not even 10 minutes into my shift. Rest assured we’re going to keep organizing, and this is going on my long list of unfair labor practices charges against Amazon.” (@AmazonUnionofKY)

The very first Amazon warehouse to mount a union campaign was BHM1, in Bessemer, Alabama. Despite losing their first NLRB vote in 2021 by a large margin, undaunted workers kept up the struggle, supported by the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union. Vote counting started on the second election March 28 and was so close that the still-contested ballots—challenged by either Amazon or the RWDSU—could bring victory for the union. The upsurge in “yes” votes alone already counts as a victory in Bessemer, a longtime steel and coal union town, along with neighboring Birmingham.

Amazon workers at the KSBD warehouse in San Bernardino,

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WHEN WE FIGHT WE WIN!

On the picket line

By Marie Kelly

Mental health workers strike for their patients

The psychologists, social workers and other mental health care workers at Kaiser Permanente facilities in California are out on the picket line. These members of the National Union of Healthcare Workers are on strike because the hospital administration refuses to increase staffing to meet the demand for services. (East Bay Times, Aug. 19)

Instead workers’ caseloads are reaching unsafe levels. Wait times for appointments are putting patients at risk. Despite Kaiser’s claims that the strike is having little impact on care because nonunion psychiatrists are filling in, patients are reporting they are being told that no appointments are available.

The striking mental health care workers have already agreed to Kaiser’s wage

proposal, so it is clear that is not the reason for the strike. These health care workers are putting the responsibility for the safety of their patients where it belongs. The Kaiser workers are refusing to allow corporate greed to dominate — an all too familiar scenario in the health care business.

Beckers Hospital Review reported that Kaiser plans a \$1.7 billion expansion. Yet it refuses to improve staffing levels for mental health services. Another example of profit over patients.

Minnesota nurses ready for a strike

Across their state, 15,000 nurses at 15 hospitals have authorized their union, Minnesota Nurses Association, to call a strike. They are demanding hospital administrations increase staffing levels and pay. (Minnesota Reformer, Aug. 11)

There is a nationwide exodus of professional



Mental health workers march from Oakland Kaiser Medical Center to Kaiser’s corporate headquarters, Aug. 19, on Day 5 of an open-ended California strike.

nurses from direct patient care. Nurses are leaving the bedside, as hospital executives are pocketing million-dollar salaries. The Minnesota nurses want that money to compensate nurses who have worked through the pandemic and to attract new nurses, thereby improving patient-to-nurse staffing ratios.

Patient safety incidents like falls and bedsores have been on the rise in Minnesota facilities, as a direct result of increased nursing workloads. This creates an ethical dilemma for nurses, when they cannot practice according to professional standards of care. The Minnesota nurses are sending a message to their employers: They would

rather strike than continue to put their professional licenses on the line or their patients’ safety at risk.

BCTGM: Strike two on the bosses!

Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Union (BCTGM) members are not afraid to stand up to snack-food bosses. This month, Bakery Union workers are on strike at two prominent food businesses. In Fresno, California, BCTGM Local 85 called an Unfair Labor Practices strike against the CornNuts plant owned by Hormel. When Hormel took over the plant in 2021, the corporation altered the medical plan without notifying employees, an Unfair Labor Practice. Changes that took effect in January have created hardships for workers, who are incurring mounting medical debt due to higher deductibles and increased out-of-pocket expenses. (tinyurl.com/544arpnw)

In Cedar Rapids, Iowa, BCTGM Local 100 called a strike Aug. 1 after rejecting a contract offer from Ingredion Inc. (kcrg.com, Aug. 1) The main dispute is over health care coverage. In 2021 BCTGM led three successful strikes against industry giants Kellogg’s, Nabisco and FritoLay. □

class struggle



Workers at Amazon’s air hub in San Bernardino, California, prepare to walk out, Aug. 15.

Continued from page 4

California, in the Inland Empire Valley, walked out mid-shift on Aug. 15 to protest low wages and unsafe working conditions. Summer temperatures in San Bernardino soar above 95 F. Pay for KSBD workers starts at about \$17 an hour, but in San Bernardino the average rent is \$1,650 a month. Working full-time, employees have to spend 75% of their income to cover rent. About 900 workers have signed a petition calling for the base pay rate to be raised to \$22 an hour. (mynorthwest.com, Aug. 16)

Organized by Inland Empire Amazon Workers United (IEAWU), an independent collective, this was the first coordinated labor action within Amazon’s airfreight division, which transports packages to numerous warehouses globally. Though the 150 workers who walked out were a small fraction of the 1,500 employees, the action created logistical disruptions, since KSBD is one of only three Amazon air hubs in the U.S.

In July, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and federal prosecutors in the **Southern District of New York** announced an investigation into workplace deaths and safety in Amazon warehouses, including injuries from workplace hazards, work rate requirements and the pace of work, and whether Amazon is accurately reporting on-the-job injuries.

The Strategic Organizing Center, a coalition of four labor unions, published an April 12 study asserting that U.S. Amazon

warehouse workers suffered serious injuries at twice the rate of rival companies in 2021; and that, for every 100 Amazon warehouse workers, there were 6.8 serious injuries compared with an average of 3.3 serious injuries at all other employers in the warehouse industry — more than twice the industry rate. (thesoc.org)

In one month — July — there were three deaths at three separate Amazon facilities in New Jersey: **PNE5 in Robbinsville, EWR9 in Carteret and DEY6 in Monroe Township**. Over the years there have been repeated reports of outrageous hazardous heat conditions in different Amazon facilities across the country, including Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania, in 2011, the New York City area in 2021 and this August in Memphis, Tennessee.

More Perfect Union reported that **workers at the MEM4 facility in Tennessee**, speaking anonymously out of fear of company retaliation, said they’re assigned to unload packages in unventilated trailers for their full 10-hour-day shifts. Workers recorded warehouse temperatures as high as 145 F. Amazon gives workers one bottle of water per shift and does not provide any additional breaks for water.

“This is the closest thing to a plantation I ever worked on,” one worker said. (@MorePerfectUS, Aug. 9)

Meanwhile, in the People’s Republic of China, founded on socialist principles, the government recently announced a heat emergency and ordered a shutdown of factories in Sichuan “to save power for homes as air-conditioning demand surges.” (euronews.com, Aug. 21)

The main premise of socialism is that the peoples’ needs come first. The uprising of workers in the U.S holds the potential to transform the relation of the people to capitalism — and advance toward socialism — under the leadership of people of color, and young, women, gender-oppressed and LGBTQ2S+ workers.

All out for Labor Day, Sept. 5, to support the Amazon Labor Union and all the workers organizing for the liberation of their workplaces! □

Strikes hit Seattle

By Jim McMahon

Sandwich makers in Seattle are following the path of Starbucks workers. Workers at Homegrown toil at a large enterprise, making and distributing sandwiches throughout the Seattle metro. Homegrown owns 10 cafes.

Since June, a majority of the workers have insisted on union recognition through the card check recognition process to be represented by UNITE-HERE Local 8. They are demanding safety, respect and jobs at a sustainable wage when rents are through the roof. Homegrown workers have received increasing labor and community solidarity, including from six members of the Seattle City Council.

After organizing, leafleting and picketing stores through the “Hot Union Summer,” the workers are upping the struggle. Delivery drivers, especially angry since the company installed truck cameras to spy on them while they work, struck Aug. 17.

Now workers in at least four Homegrown cafes have voted to join the strike to press their just demands. (@OurUnionIsHG)

Day care workers strike

Workers at the MightyKidz child care center in Seattle formed the

Magnolia Childcare Union in early August. They put forth demands for wages of \$22-\$25 an hour for teaching children in the upper-class neighborhood. They demanded at least the minimum child-to-teacher staffing ratios, a clear training plan for new teachers and that they be given legally mandated break time.

But when the teachers struck for their demands, 10 of them were illegally fired. The bosses of MightyKidz accused the workers of “commercial extortion.”

On Aug. 10, a Magnolia neighborhood rally was called, with the help of City Councilperson Kshama Sawant, to rally support and respect for the striking workers.

The rally brought out 100 union allies. Several striking workers spoke. Especially supportive was Service Employees Union (SEIU) Local 925 President Tricia Schroeder, who spoke and pledged support. Jesse Mason of Communications Workers (CWA), which represents Verizon workers, and Joe Segru, a teacher and a member of the Seattle Education Association, also spoke. Sawant, who helped start a MightyKidz Solidarity Fund with a \$2,000 donation for the strikers, chastised MightyKidz bosses Kyla and Jeff Liboon. □



Homegrown sandwich workers on strike, Seattle.

PHOTO: OUR UNION IS HOMEGROWN

Recollections of Albert Woodfox

By Gloria Rubac

Parnell Herbert grew up with Albert Woodfox and later reconnected when Woodfox was in prison. Malik Rahim was a founder of the New Orleans Black Panther Party and met Woodfox at the Orleans Parish Jail. Gloria Rubac interviewed Herbert and Rahim Aug. 14 about Woodfox, a member of the Angola Three who passed away Aug. 4. Woodfox, Robert King and Herman Wallace organized a Black Panther Party chapter in Angola Prison.

Parnell Herbert

Albert and I grew up a few blocks from each other across from the Lafitte Projects. We hung out with others in the park nearby and got involved with a little mischief. I started seeing my friends killed and being sent to prison. When Albert was sent to prison for the first time, I decided to go into the military to avoid the drugs and the cops and prison.

When I got out of the military, I didn't see Albert and figured he was dead. Then my daughter told me about Albert and the Angola Three. I met Robert King when he got out of Angola in 2001, after 29 years in solitary confinement, and we became friends. I was at King's house one day when Albert called King from prison. I talked with him, and we got caught up.

I started visiting Albert. Six of us would go together and visit King, Herman [Wallace] and Albert. We actually had contact visits. We'd buy a bunch of food and sit together and have our own little party. The Three got to eat some decent food and visit with each other. There were six of us and the Angola Three. After a while Angola stopped our contact visits, but we still went to visit. We were all behind glass, but at least the guys got out of their cramped solitary cells.

After [Hurricane] Katrina I was in Houston for several years; and when Panther activists were planning to have an event commemorating the assassination of Carl Hampton, the Panther leader in Houston, I got involved. It was during that time that I wrote a play about the Angola Three, and it was performed as part of the week-end of events for Carl.

I finally got to meet Albert out here in New Orleans, when he was freed in 2016. He was released on his birthday, Feb. 19, and we were having an event that night



Albert Woodfox

that was to include a celebration of his birthday. We found out he was being released that day, so I was on the panel for the event. Albert's brother picked him up from Angola and drove straight to New Orleans to the Ashe Center where we were. No one in the audience knew Albert had just been released. So when I told the crowd to welcome Albert Woodfox on his birthday, there was such surprise when Albert walked in.

Albert told me later he wasn't sure if people would welcome him, since the last time they had seen him, he was a petty criminal. But the crowd was so jubilant, so welcoming, so thrilled to have him home! Everyone had been fighting for the freedom of Albert, and here he was.

I will remember Albert and his humanity, how he had changed in prison, evolving every day. Being a Panther changed him. He spent decades fighting the prison abuse, the prison rapes; he fought for everybody at Angola. My childhood friend became a hero, loved by people all over the world.

Right now, we're working on a memorial for Albert on Oct. 8 here in NOLA. Panthers from around the country are coming. We will have some speakers and then open it up for everyone to give their tribute.

Malik Rahim

I was a Panther in 1970 in New Orleans and was one of the survivors of an attack on the Panthers at the Desire Housing Project. I met Albert when I was in the Orleans Parish jail. I learned that Albert had met the Panthers while in Harlem and became politicized by their analysis and actions. He was arrested and put in the Tombs and began organizing those locked up with him.

The officers at the Tombs wanted to get rid of him and quickly sent him back to the Orleans Parish Prison, where he was put in the dungeon. I made a commitment in 1971 to help free them.

One of the first organizations to support Albert and Herman Wallace and others fighting at Angola was Workers World Party. I was in San Francisco and at an event celebrating the release of Geronimo [Pratt], I told people we had to build support for the Angola Three. Albert was getting ready to be retried and needed help. We didn't have funds or an office or a copy machine, but WW gave us that.

Later I was invited to a Workers World Party conference and got to speak about Angola. We got over 500 postcards signed to the judge in the retrial, letting him know people would be monitoring Albert's trial.

I went with WWP to Iraq about the sanctions challenge and spoke with Ramsey Clark, Lucius Walker, Bishop Gumbleton and so many about the Angola Three. Workers World made this possible, and on that trip we gathered international support. If it wasn't for Workers World, the Angola Three [case] would not have gone global.

The very day Albert got out of prison, on his 69th birthday, his activism began out here. He had the courage to keep his fight going, particularly against solitary confinement. Those first 20 years at Angola were so hard, as there was no community support. But those were the years that showed the character and courage of Albert.

Albert and Herman and King were renowned jailhouse lawyers. They helped all the prisoners who needed it, including those on death row. They even helped Ponchai "Kamau" Wilkerson on the row in Texas. They knew about him and their group PURE, Panthers United for Revolutionary Education, by reading Workers World.

Through Workers World they read about Mumia and got other prisoners to sign petitions for Mumia.

The Angola Three were dedicated to struggle. As a man, Albert showed me how to overcome injustice. He lived a principled life. He was committed to not just prison justice, but he was a man for world justice. He made peoples' history.

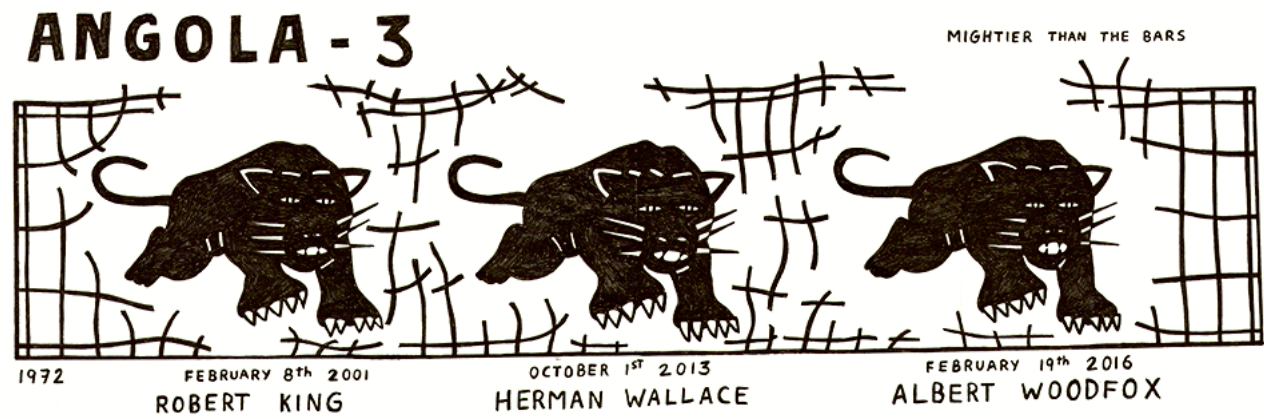
People will always remember the Angola Three as three Black men who stood up and never backed down. They always stood strong. We were comrades. I couldn't understand a person who lived as Albert did, coming out of solitary confinement. I did 11 months in solitary, but Albert did 43 years.

I want WW to know that the stand they made for justice for the Angola Three was a big part of them finally winning their freedom. □



PHOTO: BUNCHY CREAR

Houston Panther Claude Frost, Albert Woodfox and Houston Panther James Aaron with Gloria Rubac after Woodfox's release in 2016.



Celebrating the release days of each of the Angola Three

GRAPHIC FOR ALBERT WOODFOX, MAY 13, 2016 BY RIGO VIA ANGOLA3.ORG

Albert Woodfox, Angola Three warrior passes

By Mumia Abu-Jamal
August 9

Who has not heard of the Angola Three, three young Black prisoners who were falsely accused of killing a prison guard in 1972, in the infamous Louisiana maximum-security prison, sited at a former slave plantation and named for the place where the African captives came from: Angola. On Thursday, Aug. 4, attorneys for Albert Woodfox announced his passing at the age of 75.

For over 43 years, Woodfox and several other Black men were held in brutal solitary confinement, one of the longest-held solitary prisoners on Earth. 43 years,

seven days a week, 23 hours a day. The U.N. Special Rapporteur on Torture has stated that any time above 13 days constitutes torture and a violation of international law.

13 days, 43 years. How did Woodfox survive? He cites the teachings of the Black Panther Party; books by Frantz Fanon, Malcolm X and Marcus Garvey; and lastly, the daily work they did for decades of calling down the tier to quiz guys on Black history, on math and spelling bees. In an interview in the Guardian, Woodfox said, "Our cells were meant to be death chambers, but we turned them into schools, into debate halls." By keeping their minds alive, they kept the beast of madness at bay. After a bitter court fight, Woodfox was freed in 2016,

and he returned to the remnants of his family. His daughter, Brenda, and her children and grandchildren greeted his return. He wrote a book entitled "Solitary" and spoke at colleges around the world about his time in Angola.

In his last six years of freedom, he thought more and more of his mother, Ruby Mable Hamlin, who died while he was in Angola. He called her his true hero. She was, he said, "functionally illiterate." But, he added, "I never saw a look of defeat in her face no matter how hard things got. I grew into my mother's wisdom. I carry it within me." Albert Woodfox returns to his ancestors.

In love, not fear, this is Mumia Abu-Jamal. Mumia Abu-Jamal's commentaries are recorded by Prison Radio.



During Black August, an Attica brother pays tribute to George Jackson

Commentary

By Che Nieves

On behalf of the Attica Brothers, I want to take this opportunity to extend our commemoration to all our fallen freedom fighters who have sacrificed their lives for the liberation of all political prisoners and prisoners of war. These fighters have fought to the very end to have our freedom fighters released from U.S. concentration camps.

This empire has for years been in denial of the reality that they have kept many of our fighters in prison for 40, 50 and 60 years, in which many have died as a result of their incarceration.

We, the Attica brothers in this month of August, want to acknowledge one of our fallen warrior brothers, George Jackson. Brother George was born on Sept. 23, 1941, on the West side of Chicago, Illinois. His father was Lester, and his mother was Georgia. He was the second of five siblings. His parents always provided a healthy, stable home life for their children. While growing up, George had a few legal encounters with the legal system, and as a result was placed in a children's correctional facility for minor offenses.

In 1961, he was charged with stealing \$70 from a gas station. As a result, he was convicted and sentenced to one-year to life and sent to San Quentin Prison. As time passed he met brother W. L. Nolen



George Jackson

who began educating him on Marxism and Maoism. They became good comrades, and together they formed the Black Guerilla Family (BGF) in 1966.

The BGF theoretical base was Marxism. George once said: "I met Marx, Engels, Trotsky, Lenin and Mao when I entered prison. They redeemed me."

Consequently, his political prison involvement became a problem for the prison officials, and he was placed in isolation. This gave him more strength to study and write letters to his friends and family. It also gave him the chance to begin writing his books, "Soledad Brother" and "Blood in My Eye." George and Nolen were then transferred from San Quentin to Soledad Prison. It was in Soledad Prison where eventually brother Nolen was killed by the guards in a racist riot between Blacks and whites.

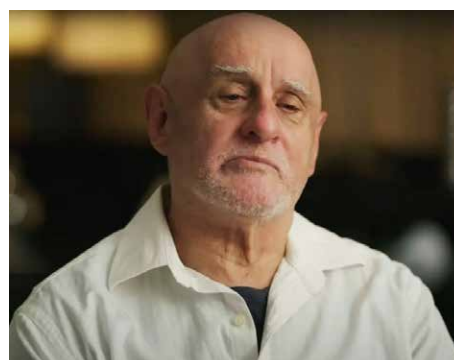
While in Soledad he developed a strong comradeship with prisoners Fleeta Drumgo and John Clutchette. Later on, all three were charged with a murder of a guard. They became known as the Soledad Brothers. They were put on trial. George knew that this was a setup by the system to get rid of them. It was all planned. It was all lies; as always the system never tells the truth.

Spirit of George Jackson lives

In one of the court sessions [Aug. 7, 1970] that George didn't attend, his younger brother, who was 17 years old,

was there. His name was Jonathan Jackson, who was fully armed and determined to free the Soledad Brothers. He received help from three other comrades, James McClain, William Christmas and Ruchell Magee.

While in the Marin County Superior Court in San Rafael, California, they



Che Nieves pictured in the Oscar-nominated documentary 'Attica' by Stanley Nelson.

took hostages including the presiding judge, Harold Haley. Once they were outside they were shot, and the judge, Jonathan, Christmas and McClain were killed. Magee was shot but was able to survive and for the last 58 years has been imprisoned.

Brother George became well-known and became the Field Marshal of the Black Panther Party. On Aug. 21, 1971, a year after the Marin County courthouse massacre, brother George was accused by guards of bringing a gun into the prison. This was an excuse to murder him, which they did.

That very same day, those of us in the Attica prison were told about George's death. The next day we organized the

prison population for a hunger strike, which turned out very successful. The whole Attica population commemorated brother George. Nobody ate that day. Some of us who were organizers wore black armbands as a sign of resistance. His death gave the prison movement insights and strength to move on to higher levels of struggle, which led to the historic Attica Prison insurrection in September 1971.

Black August was born in 1979. The first celebration took place at San Quentin Prison, where George was first awakened to Marxism and the struggle of the working class.

The aim of people who observe Black August today is to raise consciousness and advocate for the release of all prisoners of war and political prisoners.

Brother George was a true warrior who believed in revolution and scientific socialism. His conviction was so strong that he dedicated his whole life while in prison to fighting for human rights. This is the same fight that we in Attica waged for so many years.

His books are very inspiring; and if you read them, you will never be the same. So let me end by saying free all political prisoners and prisoners of war. Let's always support our prison movement. Attica means fight back now and always. Power to all the people!

The writer is a survivor of the 1971 Attica Prison Rebellion and a founding member of the Young Lords Party in the Green Haven and Attica prisons in New York state.

Bradford Gamble, liberated activist and prison whistleblower

By Ted Kelly

When Bradford Gamble died, he was surrounded by his family. The 65-year-old had been imprisoned for nearly a lifetime — 46 years — before he learned he was dying of cancer. With the help of activists on both sides of the prison walls, Gamble fought relentlessly to win his freedom.

Gamble was one of only 33 people who have successfully petitioned Pennsylvania courts for "compassionate release" in the last 13 years. His friend and tireless supporter Bryant Arroyo, currently still incarcerated at SCI Coal Township, said in April, "He was so adamant about not dying here under these particular circumstances that he was willing to do exactly what he needed to do in order to try to obtain his release." (spotlightpa.org, April 21)

Only two others have been granted compassionate release since Gamble was released in March. One, Howard White, died only days after he was released from custody to a hospice.

"I didn't make it out here just to say, I'm home. I got more to do," Gamble told Workers World when he was released from prison a mere five months ago. "One thing Mr. Arroyo taught me is to never give up. Never stop fighting. If you can't fight for yourself, fight for somebody else. I always told him, if I make it out of here — and we didn't know, at that time, we really didn't know — if I get out, I'm gonna touch somebody's heart. And I'm gonna put them in a position to touch

somebody else's heart."

He became an outspoken whistleblower on the conditions inside Pennsylvania's prison system, particularly regarding the deplorable health care incarcerated people have access to.

"I want you all to know that there are things going on behind closed doors. People like me are not being treated as human beings. We're being treated like cattle. The DOC medical department is 100% wrong in their way of treating us. We need people to know and understand that." (Workers World, March 23)

Prison officials failed to notify Gamble what was causing his health to decline during his final years behind bars. Months after a biopsy to confirm whether he had terminal cancer, a prison guard dropped a piece of paper on the floor of his cell and only then did Gamble learn of his diagnosis.

Since his release, Gamble's story has been raised as an example of why the compassionate release process in Pennsylvania fails to give incarcerated people the basic dignity of living out their final months with their families and communities. He had also become a spokesperson against the shackling of incarcerated people in health care settings.

Bradford Gamble's legacy lies not only in his triumph of spending the final months of his life surrounded by his loved ones. His legacy is also his struggle, his adamant demand that everyone behind bars is afforded that basic human right as well.

A statement posted by from Gamble's incarcerated comrades and friends, Bryant Arroyo, George Rashaan Brooks-Bey and Phillip Quinn, reads:

"Life and death are one, as the river and sea is one. So death is no enemy; it is a friend who, when the work of life is done, cuts the cord that binds the human boat to Earth so it can sail on to smoother shores. "No language can describe a loved one's worth, and Bub's

was tried and true. He was not called to be with our ancestors until the task he sought was done. When one has completed their mission, nature demands they move on. Thus, Bub joined the ancestors.

"Those who love him will follow his example and continue his fight for human rights. I know, that is the pattern for my life. His example, his dedication will be mirrored by my example and told by me. It would be selfish of us to desire to walk and talk with Bub, again. So, we will honor Bub by carrying on our struggle and letting his strength be an inspiration to us.

"Bub is now one with the creative force. Who can doubt the power of creative force? In the depths of the Earth, it presses coal into diamonds. In the soft belly of the oyster, it changes a grain of sand into a pearl. In the darkness of the cocoon, it turns a caterpillar into a butterfly. Death, too, is but one of nature's



WW PHOTO: TED KELLY

Bradford Gamble with some of the prison abolition supporters who worked for his release, March 13.

moments of change.

"As the snake shakes off its old skin, we, too, shake off this life to find something new and beautiful. As the winter landscapes hide the springtime flowers just beneath the soil and winter trees hide the promise of new leaves, our grief and deathbed agonies hide the promise of nature's eternal love. Life has taught us to trust in nature's divine plan. Like an owl whose night-bound eyes cannot comprehend the mystery of light, wisdom teaches us to be patient with what we cannot comprehend.

"Energy and force shape the ground beneath all beings. It is an awesome and mysterious reality in which all things live and move and have purpose, in and out of which all things emerge and into which all things return.

"Rest in power, our friend, Bradford Gamble." □

Palestinians resist U.S. imperialism and Israeli occupation

By Richie Merino

On Aug. 18, Israeli occupation forces raided, physically blocked and imposed closure orders on the offices of seven prominent Palestinian human rights, feminist and social services organizations operating in the Ramallah area of the occupied West Bank.

Background to the demonization

In 2021, Israel falsely and preemptively designated six of the seven targeted organizations as “terrorist groups,” alleging ties to the banned Marxist liberation organization, Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), in order to justify any raids. The groups facing repression and intimidation include: Al-Haq, Addameer, the Bisan Center for Research and Development, Defense for Children International-Palestine (DCI-P), the Union of Agricultural Work Committees, the Union of Health Workers Committees and the Union of Palestinian Women’s Committees.

In April, U.N. human rights experts and nine European Union states funding the targeted groups denounced the designation for lack of evidence substantiating Israel’s “terrorist” claims. However, the EU bloc headquarters in Brussels pointedly refused to condemn the designation of “terrorist groups,” confirming the hard-line pro-Israel stance of the overall EU bureaucracy.

During his visit to Jerusalem July 13-15, Biden pledged to shield Israel from “all efforts to boycott or delegitimize Israel,” including at the U.N. and the International Criminal Court. The U.S. promises were made in the July 14 “Jerusalem U.S.-Israel Strategic Partnership Joint Declaration,” in which the U.S. pledged to continue to provide “additional missile defense assistance” to Israel. The overall tone and structure of the statement implies a brutal commitment to stamp out Palestinian resistance.

After Biden’s return, 21 members of the U.S. Congress signed a July 18 letter urging the Biden administration to publicly reject the designation of “terrorist” for Palestinian groups and to pressure Israel to rescind any punitive measures.

Escalation against Palestinian resistance

Because all the U.N., U.S. and EU can offer Palestinians resisting settler colonialism is lip service and performative, toothless statements, Israel was then emboldened to escalate its crackdown on

the Palestinian human rights groups.

On Aug. 18, Israeli forces “forcibly blasted through the locked security door of Al-Haq’s offices, bursting the door from its hinges, and raided the premises, setting off alarms,” the rights group stated that day. Israeli Defense Forces broke down the front door of St. Andrew’s Scots Memorial Church, located below Al-Haq’s offices, “leaving long shards of exposed broken glass, sponge-grenades, and several tear-gas canisters, rubber-coated and live bullets around the property.” The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem said: “The sound of gunshots, stun grenades and the smashing of doors caused terror among the families living inside the compound.”

The Zionist forces “welded a new reinforced iron door to the outside of Al-Haq’s office,” preventing reentry. Furthermore, Al-Haq’s General Director Shawan Jabarin received a threatening call from the Israeli Security Agency, the Shabak or Shin Bet, demanding Jabarin report to a military base for interrogation. The call threatened him with imprisonment and further measures should Al-Haq continue its work.

The DCI-P said that soldiers took equipment and “client files related to Palestinian child detainees” who the group represents in Israeli military courts. DCI-P’s General Director Khaled Quzmar was taken into Shin Bet custody and released two hours later in a further escalation of repression and intimidation.

The Union of Palestinian Women’s Committees noted that Thursday’s raid was “not the first time that the occupation forces stormed our office.”

The terrorist designation and subsequent raids are part of Israel’s long-running campaign to criminalize, defund and sabotage organizations attempting to document human rights violations against the people of occupied Palestine. Three of the organizations — Addameer, Al-Haq and the Defense for Children International-Palestine — have provided evidence to, and have closely cooperated with, the International Criminal Court’s investigation of war crimes in the West Bank and Gaza.

The escalation in fascist repression stems directly from the EU and U.S. reassurance that they will “combat” efforts to disrupt Israeli impunity at the U.N. and the ICC and will not substantively respond to the Zionist occupier’s false designation of these Palestinian human rights groups as “terrorist.”

Instead the EU and the U.S. have only



PHOTO: ABBAS MOMANI

Protesters hounded U.S. President Joe Biden in Palestine July 15 in Bethlehem where boys carried the photograph of Shireen Abu Akleh, the Palestinian-American journalist murdered by Israeli Defense Force troops while on assignment in the Palestinian refugee camp of Jenin.

rewarded Israeli terror with groveling approval, in effect green-lighting the raids. Israel will continue to get away with blatant violations of international human rights law, as long as the EU and the Biden administration, like their predecessors, continue to defend Israel and unconditionally provide the occupier with military, economic and diplomatic support.

A revolutionary response

Since the beginning of August, 56 Palestinians — including 20 children — have been murdered by Israeli occupation forces, according to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights. (ohchr.org/en)

Zionist occupiers have launched aggressive, targeted raids on resistance fighters, with countless civilians being caught in the crosshairs. While much of the media focuses on Israeli atrocities and crimes committed against the Palestinian people, the imperial powers — England, France, the U.S. and other countries — were responsible for creating the state of Israel in 1948. These countries continue to vociferously whitewash Israeli genocide and undermine the Palestinian national liberation struggle.

The struggle to free Palestine is not just against Israel but against world imperialism. As George Habash, late founder of the PFLP, proclaimed long ago: “Our real enemy is not Israel and Zionism only; it is American imperialism, which is backing Israel because Israel is a body-guard for American imperialist interests.” (Twitter video of Habash speaking @SpiritofLenin, Aug. 2)

Global calls for the U.S., EU and U.N. to hold Israel accountable for its war crimes

have gone largely unanswered. Grassroots efforts to impose boycotts, divestments, and sanctions on Israel consistently hit roadblocks, including being outlawed by imperialist governments.

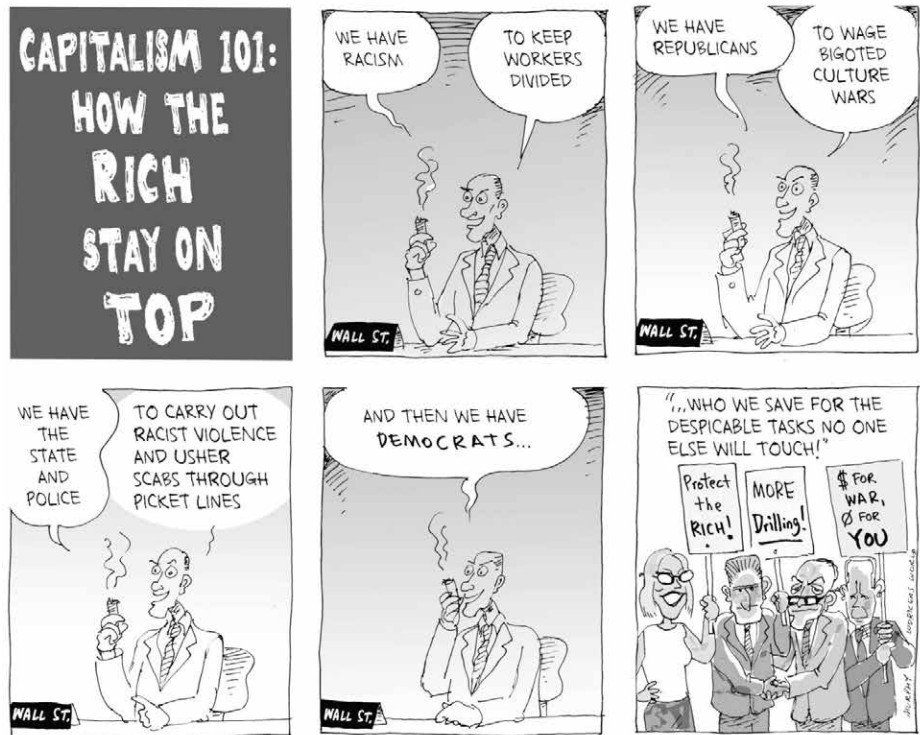
This imperialist support for the Zionist occupation has created an environment in which belief in the armed struggle as the principle method of liberation is now prominent on the West Bank. Any entity standing in the way of that is viewed as the enemy and a collaborator. Because Israel and its allies work overtime to demonize the Palestinian struggle and falsely label any armed resistance against Israeli state violence as terrorism, the Palestinian resistance movements require an alliance of forces of world revolution to achieve victory.

In 1967, Fidel Castro proclaimed: “Revolutionaries didn’t choose armed struggle as the best path. It’s the path the oppressors imposed on the people. And so the people only have two choices: to suffer or to fight.” (Twitter video of Castro speaking @JoseMarti, May 18, 2020)

The Palestinian struggle will overcome Zionist forces and will ultimately clear the road to a substantive liberation that secures Palestinian sovereign power over their lands, from the river to the sea.

All power to the militant Palestinians uniting in mass rebellion to withstand and resist Zionist aggression today. The liberation of Palestine and its most oppressed and colonized subjects is inevitable. The U.S.-backed Zionist occupation, its genocidal invaders and the Israeli settler colony will be defeated.

Sovereignty and political power will be restored to the Indigenous people of the Palestinian lands. □



A Marxist view

WW Commentary

Behind the search at Mar-a-Lago

By John Catalinotto

Aug. 21 — The most recent conflict among U.S. ruling institutions displays the depth of the crises wracking U.S. imperialism. As U.S. worldwide dominance declines and the government at home fails to stem growing inequality or resolve health and climate disasters, internal conflicts are sharpening.

U.S. ruling-class organizations are battling for control of the U.S. capitalist regime —which decides how and for whom \$3 trillion is spent each year.

What’s unusual is that politicians and pundits have taken public positions contrasting with their past positions. How the corporate media — centrist or reactionary — discuss this conflict sows confusion. The first step for the working class to intervene is to understand the conflict.

Working-class organizations, those with a Marxist and Leninist view of how the capitalist state and government operate, must make the following point clear: All the parties and institutions involved in this conflict — even though they have real

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Angered by inflation, British workers strike

By G. Dunkel

Ever since then-Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher “solved” Britain’s economic problems by hammering down workers while ignoring their needs in the 1980s, the British rulers have preferred the tactic of confronting and crushing the workers. This summer, workers have begun to hit back with a wave of strikes. This unstated ruling-class goal of crushing the unions, along with dreams of past imperialist prosperity, lay behind the ruling-class backing for Brexit. The British rulers wanted to use anti-migrant bigotry to divide the working class, and they wanted to avoid the culture and rules of the European Union, which are based on past struggles of workers on the continent.

But they only completed their departure from the EU Jan. 31, 2020, a month before COVID-19 hit England, Scotland and Wales. Both COVID-19 and Brexit caused severe economic problems that made the lives of workers there harder.

As in the U.S., workers avoided jobs that were onerous, those requiring risks, those with erratic schedules and those paying less than a living wage. The absence of workers migrating from EU countries exacerbated these shortages, as did supply chain issues caused by COVID-19.

Some economists like Adam Poser (New York Times, Aug. 18) blame 80% of Britain’s inflation on Brexit.

The war in Ukraine and the anti-Russian sanctions create another huge economic problem. Prices on fuel products, currently restricted, are scheduled to go up by 80% on Oct. 1 for England, Scotland and Wales.

The British government just announced



Thousands, organized by the Trades Union Congress, marched through central London June 18 over the cost of living crisis and the need for higher wages.

that it is applying much stricter sanctions on Russia at the end of June, as well as pouring money into training the Ukrainian army and supplying weapons. The government has avoided detailing the impact of these sanctions beyond indicating that it will cost billions of pounds. (1 British pound equals \$1.18, Aug. 22)

Workers’ response

While inflation has been hovering between 9% and 10% in 2022, the median wage for workers in the private sector has gone up by 7.2% and in the public sector by only 1.5%. (CNBC, July 22)

The National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT) represents most of the railroad workers, except the train drivers who are represented by the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen

(ASLEF). Both unions are cooperating in the struggle against the train-operating companies; there have been six strikes of at least 24 hours against these companies in England since the beginning of June.

There was also an Aug. 19 strike on the London Metro that affected service to the 5 million people who use it every workday.

The unions were demanding raises of around 7%, while the company was offering 3% and threatening layoffs. The bosses resisted improving working conditions and safety.

In July, the government opened up an attack on the unions’ ability to strike, using as justification the “inconveniences” caused by the strikes. They passed a law allowing the use of scabs, which they call “agency workers,” to maintain services and production.

Frances O’Grady, the head of the Trades Union Congress (TUC), a federation representing the majority of unions in England and Wales, said: “This is a recipe for disaster. Unions and industry bodies have both warned ministers against these reckless plans. Using agency workers to try and break strikes would put these workers in an appalling position, worsen disputes and poison industrial relations. Make no mistake. This government wants to undermine the fundamental right to strike.” (tinyurl.com/2p9xmn7a)

Walkout at Felixstowe

Felixstowe is Britain’s main container port, handling over 2 million containers a year, about half of all containers entering Britain. It is a major trans-shipping point for Hamburg, Germany, and Rotterdam, Netherlands, two major EU ports.

According to Unite, the union that represents the port workers, “Over 1,900 members of Unite, employed in manual roles at the docks, including crane drivers, tug boat operatives and stevedores, began eight days of strike action this morning in a dispute over pay.” (unitetheunion.org, Aug. 21) They demand better working conditions and a safer environment.

This is Felixstowe’s first strike in 30 years. Inflation hit 10.2% in July and is projected by the Bank of England to hit 13% in the last quarter of 2022.

Besides workers in transportation, nurses, teachers, post office workers and airline workers have made plans for further strikes in the fall and winter.

The British ruling class has provoked a fight. But from the angry organized response the workers are showing, it’s a fight the workers can still win. □

Behind the search at Mar-a-Lago

Continued from page 8

differences with each other—are enemies of the working class and oppressed peoples, worldwide and within the United States.

The conflict erupted with the Aug. 8 FBI search of former President Donald Trump’s Mar-a-Lago residence in Florida to recover top-secret government documents from the time of his administration that he had refused to return to the National Archives.

Many in the Republican Party—whose position has been to support every action of the police apparatus—immediately attacked the FBI and the Department of Justice. Some labeled the search a “witch hunt” and called on Congress to “defund the FBI,” which they called the Gestapo—as in Hitler’s “Secret State Police.”

As a result of the unusual right-wing attack on the FBI, one Trump supporter—who the media reported had participated in the Jan. 6, 2021, siege of the Capitol—attempted to gain entry to an FBI office in Cincinnati, Ohio, and died in a shoot-out with police.

Trump’s crimes

While Trump’s handling of secret U.S. documents may still lead to criminal charges—or not—this is not his biggest crime against the working class. Trump agitated throughout his presidency in an openly racist, misogynist and anti-migrant manner and blew wind into the sails of 21st-century fascist organizations, like the Proud Boys and Oath Keepers that carry out physical attacks on oppressed people.

Trump cut taxes for the rich—and

cut benefits for the working class. He appointed directors of government agencies—Postmaster General Louis DeJoy is a prime example—who deliberately dismantled the departments they were entrusted with.

Trump appointed federal judges, including to the Supreme Court, who restricted the rights of women and others over their own bodies and their health by banning all or most abortions, besides limiting health care in other situations.

This former TV personality, questionable real-estate investor and racist political demagogue incited fascist elements to assault Congress in order to hang onto his presidential office. This meant overriding the votes of millions of workers—and especially of the large majority of people of color who voted against him.

Role of the FBI

Throughout its history the FBI has been the police agency aimed against all progressive movements in the United States, starting with the Palmer raids that attacked leftists opposed to World War I. After J. Edgar Hoover became its director (1924-1972), it became the center of political persecution, keeping files on labor leaders, leftist organizers, civil rights and peace activists, religious leaders and political leaders of all stripes.

It attacked Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Black Panther Party, leading COINTELPRO’s secret and deadly operations against political leftists and the Black Liberation Movement.

Only a month ago on July 29, using the pretext that the organizations had attended a conference in Russia, the FBI

invaded the offices of the Uhuru Movement and the African People’s Socialist Party in St. Petersburg, Florida, and in St. Louis. Unlike the search of Mar-a-Lago, the FBI made no attempt to politely search the premises. They attacked with flash-bang grenades and handcuffed the people found inside.

The raid on the APSP was typical of FBI actions and is a good reason for anyone who defends democratic rights to raise a call to abolish the FBI. This is not the same as a seemingly similar call by pro-Trump Republicans.

What the Republicans really meant was that they want directors of the FBI and the Department of Justice to be pro-Trump and even more reactionary than those already in place—if that’s possible.

Role of the Democratic Party

Currently the Democratic Party is the presidential party, with control of the House of Representatives and a razor-thin majority in the Senate.

President Joe Biden increased the military budget. He promoted NATO war maneuvers at Russia’s borders and invited

Ukraine to join the NATO war alliance, thus provoking Russia to react. Both the Democratic Party and the Republicans are warmongering and belligerent in their support for U.S. imperialism.

Washington has been prolonging the proxy war by arming the Ukrainian regime. At the same time the U.S., under Biden just as under Trump, is exacerbating hostility with China. Washington risks war on two fronts.

At home, the Democrats have used the openly pro-big-business stance of two Democratic senators to water down all parts of their program that supposedly aids the workers. Meanwhile they throw money at corporations.

The Democrats are attempting to use the unpopular acts of Trump and the Republicans—especially regarding access to abortion procedures—to mobilize their voters during this year’s midterm elections. They use the Mar-a-Lago legal actions against Trump in the hope of eliminating him from the 2024 election.

What the Democrats refuse to do is mobilize mass actions to defend abortion rights, to stifle the racism of the Trumpites or to support the rights of workers to organize. That is up to the only real progressive force in society, the working class and oppressed people. □

All the parties and institutions involved in this conflict—even though they have real differences with each other—are enemies of the working class and oppressed peoples, worldwide and within the United States.

Fighting fire with solidarity

These are especially bitter days to be living in the United States for those of us who are communists, socialists, progressives, even those remotely left of center.

The killing of Roe v. Wade and the state subjection of women and anyone who can get pregnant to the role of breeding animals. The up-reared head of the rawest racists, in cop blue or proto-Nazi black shirt, gun in hand, aiming at people of color. The laws against teaching scientific and historical truths in the schools — against teaching that nature has a variety of genders, that U.S. presidents were, yes, owners of enslaved people. The laws against teaching those truths — and against we the people who embody those truths — people of color, women, queer people, trans people.

In the middle of this, who would fault anyone for dreaming of escape to Cuba, a very small country embodying socialist bravery that has successfully resisted the economic and military might of the capitalist, imperialist U.S. for over 60 years?

But do we consider, have we carefully visualized, what kind of determination, bravery and daily sacrifice it takes for a socialist Cuba to survive? What it means to be communist cadre and what daily life is like for ordinary citizens in Cuba? What it takes to be a Cuban dedicated to the existence of a country laboriously raising itself up from enslavement, colonization, capitalist exploitation and hundreds of years of bigoted miseducation?

For the last three weeks, the entire world has seen up close the power of the people of Cuba, their will to survive and develop. And we have witnessed how the solidarity Cuba has extended to other countries since its socialist revolution in 1959 has been returned in a desperate hour for Cuba.

On Aug. 5, a lightning strike and the failure of some



Firefighters battle oil port blaze in Matanzas, Cuba, Aug. 5.

technical equipment ignited a firestorm of epic proportions at the Supertanker Oil Base in Matanzas, Cuba. The fire raged for five days and ultimately claimed the lives of 14 firefighters and three others, injuring hundreds more and displacing 4,000 people.

The country's largest port for crude oil and fuel imports was rendered unusable. For the general population, the fuel loss increased electrical blackouts from oil-dependent power stations, with several units previously out of commission or needing urgent maintenance.

The failure of old equipment, the lack of access to replacement equipment, the squeeze on the nation's economy and the difficulty in acquiring replacement fuel — all of these problems are the direct result of the infamous economic war the U.S. has waged against Cuba since 1962 — a blockade that continues to this day.

But because of Cuba's principle of "solidarity not charity," which has sent hundreds of medical missions and assistance to other countries against the depredations

of imperialism, Cuba will get the help it needs after the calamitous fire.

Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro said, as he pledged to help rebuild the damaged terminal: "Cuba knows that it can count on our scientific, technical, engineering and worker support." Maduro affirmed Cuba would always have "the support of the peoples of the world and of the compassionate, courageous and human-centered governments." (telesurenglish.net, Aug. 17)

Mexico sent firefighters, the Dominican Republic sent 40 tons of medical aid, and Russia sent a tanker with 700,000 barrels of crude oil, the equivalent of half of what Cuba lost.

Many U.S.-based organizations, including IFCO/ Pastors for Peace, Puentes de Amor and Code Pink, sent solidarity. Workers World Party raised funds to send to Cuba to be used for medical supplies for those injured in the catastrophic fire.

For those of us in the U.S., what's the next important step in solidarity for Cuba? For us to faithfully emulate the day-in-and-day-out fierce determination of the Cuban people and end forever the death-dealing U.S. sanctions and blockade of Cuba.

To work to end U.S. aggression against Cuba, and in doing so, endeavor to arouse a desire for liberation from capitalist, imperialist aggression within the U.S.!

As Yeilén Delgado Calvo said in Granma on Aug. 10, "The fire doesn't cease, but the will to put it out doesn't cease either ... the courage of the island that, in spite of the adversities, refuses to say, 'I give up' — that becomes one voice of encouragement, one embracement and one 'Matanzas, I'm here for you.'" □

Book review

'Fighting Times: Organizing on the Front Lines of the Class War'

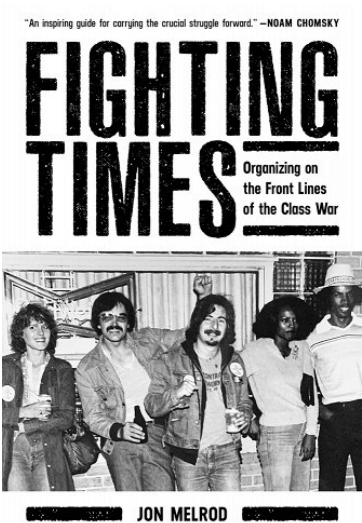
By Otis Grotewohl

If you are looking for a fun read based on real-life events and filled with historical lessons in union organizing, "Fighting Times: Organizing on the Front Lines of the Class War," published by PM Press, is worth checking out. The author, Jon Melrod, takes the reader on a journey back in time.

Melrod starts with his childhood in Washington, D.C., where he learned about the harsh reality of racism and national oppression when he saw shackled Black prisoners working on a country road in rural Virginia. He joined the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) as an ally in 1965 and participated in actions against former apartheid South Africa around the same time.

Curious about socialism in China after reading Edgar Snow's classic "Red Star Over China" in high school, Melrod wrote a personal letter to Mao Zedong. In return, he received a four-volume set of "Selected Works of Mao" in a package postmarked from Beijing.

In 1968, Melrod joined Students for a Democratic Society at the University of Wisconsin in Madison and was involved in opposing the U.S. invasion of Vietnam, fighting for independence and a socialist future. A few years later he moved to Oakland, California, and became involved with a group of radical activists who, moved by People's China, formed the Bay Area Revolutionary Union, which



became a national organization, the Revolutionary Union.

As an organizer with RU, Melrod ended up in Milwaukee and later Kenosha, Wisconsin, where he worked for American Motors (AMC, bought by Chrysler in 1986) and was a member of the United Auto Workers. During his tenure in Milwaukee, he worked alongside members of the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense.

Important lessons for today

As many young people are currently working hard to unionize places like Amazon, Starbucks and Apple, there are several lessons that can be learned from reading "Fighting Times." Melrod was able to bring workers together under unique and challenging circumstances.

While at the AMC plant in Milwaukee, he helped organize the militant, class-struggle Fight Back Caucus of UAW Local 75. With limited resources, Melrod, along with his closest associates and comrades, became creative. In addition to producing agitational flyers, Fight Back Caucus members silk-screened T-shirts that read "Fight Speed Up" in defiance of retaliatory threats from management.

In one chapter, Melrod talks about his time organizing a multinational contingent of people to defend the Menominee Nation on their land in rural Gresham, Wisconsin, against racist violence. The Menominee seized an abandoned Catholic abbey on the reservation, in an attempt to transform it into a much-needed health clinic. This brave act was attacked by

armed, racist vigilantes, who were given a green light by the state to harass and intimidate the Menominee people on their own land.

Melrod transferred to another AMC plant in Kenosha, Wisconsin, a town infamously known to WW readers as the location where cops paralyzed Jacob Blake and where a right-wing extremist murdered two anti-racist protesters in 2020. At the Kenosha plant, Melrod belonged to UAW Local 72 and was involved in the United Workers Organization, which printed and distributed a newspaper with the same title as the book, "Fighting Times." UWO became the United Workers Caucus of Local 72.

In Local 72 Melrod helped organize more innovative collective actions. Because of the diligent efforts of the UWC, Local 72 was the first UAW local to win Dr. Martin Luther King Day as a paid holiday in their contract. (See Workers World, "Anti-racist solidarity: Kenosha's labor history," Sept. 3, 2020.)

While in Local 72, Melrod helped his co-workers stand up to a violently sexist supervisor, assisted in a campaign against a racist chief steward and even dodged a potentially deadly confrontation with an armed Nazi at a bar. The book ends in the early 1980s, when Melrod and his cohorts

used their newspaper to challenge both AMC management and the conservative, business-union leadership of the UAW.

Relevance for today

Throughout the 1970s, there were many idealistic revolutionaries like Melrod who were fascinated with the tremendous gains of socialist China and tried to organize in heavy industry. Few, however, have been able to put their experiences into writing the way Melrod has. The stories of shop-floor battles and multinational solidarity are reminiscent of "Blast Furnace Brothers," written by Workers World Party co-founder Vince Copeland and published in 1973.

Workers World spoke with Melrod about why he decided to write a book about events that took place five and six decades ago. He said: "Today, hundreds of young organizers are once again taking up the class struggle against the owning class in the fight for decent treatment. Many of the essential organizing lessons that will help empower these young militants have been learned by prior generations. What I wrote talks about those lessons and creates a blueprint for building a class-conscious movement against racism and sexism and for dignity on the job."

"Fighting Times" can be a guide for those seeking creative ways to organize today. The book is available at www.jonathanmelrod.com. □

As many young people are currently working hard to unionize places like Amazon, Starbucks and Apple, there are several lessons that can be learned from reading "Fighting Times." Melrod was able to bring workers together under unique and challenging circumstances.

Faced with U.S. ‘Decapitation Drill’ DPRK missile launch is self-defense

By Sara Flounders

The Western corporate media described the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea’s launch of two missiles Aug. 17 as threatening, aggressive and paranoid. What most media failed to report was the prior U.S. military exercises with Japan and South Korea off Hawai’i, in preparation for extensive war exercises off Korea, that provoked the DPRK’s two warning shots.

An Aug. 19 article in the Daily Beast, an online news website, headlined a longer and upcoming military land, sea and air exercise this way: “U.S. to Enrage Kim Jong Un With Assassination Dry Run.” The article then reads:

“For the first time in years, joint exercises between the U.S. and South Korea this month will culminate in a trial run of decapitating the North Korean leadership.

“The U.S. and South Korea are about to play war games again, and this time they’re going for the jugular,” meaning to assassinate DPRK leader Kim Jong Un. (thedailybeast.com, Aug. 19)

The DPRK (North Korea) has not carried out a nuclear test since 2017, when these especially aggressive “kill chain” and “decapitation” drills were last conducted. Now there are predictions that the DPRK will carry out new nuclear tests in response.

People’s Korea wants peace but has been forced to develop nuclear weapons in order to defend themselves. Despite decades of threats and the harshest economic sanctions, they have refused to surrender.

This courageous spirit of Juche and self-reliance deserves the respect and solidarity of workers’ movements and anti-imperialist activists around the world.

U.S. general commands South Korean military

The exercises off Korea are described as a joint project of South Korea and the U.S. Armed Forces. A four-star U.S. general commands South Korea’s military, however, and the U.S. military has commanded South Korean forces since 1954, following the 1950-53 Korean War.

As with NATO, the U.S. military remains

in command in South Korea. NATO’s military drills are under U.S. command and use U.S. equipment and training. Washington has “operational control” of the South Korean armed forces.

According to the Aug. 16 “Stars and Stripes,” a daily U.S. military newspaper and website, “Exact troop numbers [of the deployment] and equipment used for the upcoming exercise have not been publicly released by U.S. Forces Korea or the Ministry of Defense.”

During Ulchi Freedom Guardian in 2017, around 50,000 South Korean and 17,500 U.S. service members were used for the air, land and sea drills. The USFK has roughly 28,500 U.S. troops in South Korea.

As an additional insult to the Korean people, the former colonial occupier of Korea before the U.S. division and occupation of South Korea, the Japanese military, will take part in the military drill in Korea. There are more U.S. troops stationed in Japan than Korea.

Three-stage confrontation

Ankit Panda of the Carnegie Endowment described to the Daily Beast the three-stage training operation:

“Now U.S. and Korean forces will go beyond their theoretical command post exercises, known as CPX, to field training exercises (FTX).

“The ‘kill chain’ is the first axis of South Korea’s ‘three-axis defense plan’ focusing ‘on the intelligence and strike capabilities necessary to detect and preempt North Korean missile launches.’ Second is ‘Korea Massive Punishment and Retaliation,’ KMPR, climaxing in the decapitation in which special forces snuff the target — one Kim Jong Un — in an intricately choreographed shock strike. Third is air and missile defense.”

DPRK President Kim Jong Un warned that the U.S., by “holding large-scale joint exercises, is pushing relations to a point that is irreversible.”

The terms “kill chain” and “decapitation,” which would involve a drone strike according to U.S. experts, exacerbate tensions with the DPRK.

The Jan. 2, 2020, U.S. drone assassination of Gen. Qassem Soleimani of Iran, leader of the Revolutionary Guards’ Quds

Force, and nine Iraqi political and military leaders is an example of the threat of U.S. lawless drone strikes.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol cynically offered the DPRK possible food shipments in return for a DPRK agreement to disarm. The U.S. followed the forced disarmament of Iraq and Libya with those countries’ complete destruction. The North Korean leaders are well aware of that lesson.

Legacy of the Korean War

Since 1945, the U.S. has unilaterally divided Korea and installed puppet governments in the south in defiance of the Korean people.

A U.S. bombing campaign from 1950-53 leveled the DPRK in a war that killed over 3 million Koreans. U.S. Air Force planes dropped 420,000 bombs on the 400,000 inhabitants of Pyongyang, capital of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. Not a building was left standing.

And it is the U.S. military occupation of Korea that installed corrupt, repressive governments.

The Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA), which laid down the rules governing and protecting U.S. personnel stationed in South Korea, means that South Korean courts and laws have no control over the U.S. army of occupation.

The U.S. maintains 73 military bases in South Korea. South Korea is forced to pay for this monstrous occupation. Now they are pressured to pay higher costs for hosting these troops.

Camp Humphreys in Pyeongtaek, south of Seoul, is the largest U.S. overseas military base, housing USFK headquarters and thousands of troops, civilian workers and their family members.

The U.S.-ROK combined military exercises, which prepare for an all-out war with North Korea, have developed into large-scale exercises that mobilize weapons, equipment and U.S. troops on the Korean Peninsula. These U.S. “war games,” which take place several times a year on the Korean Peninsula, are a threat to 80 million Koreans — north and south.

The military exercises have involved the use of B-2 and B-52H bombers, which are designed to drop nuclear bombs,



PHOTO: XINHUA

Tens of thousands of South Koreans demonstrate Aug. 13, during the first round of military drills Aug. 8-14. This “military drill” was described as preparation for a larger 11-day U.S.-South Korean military operation Aug. 22 to Sept. 1.

and nuclear-powered aircraft carriers and submarines. Due to their scale and provocative nature, they heighten tensions not only in Korea but throughout Asia.

Harsh U.S. economic sanctions on the DPRK on every form of industrial products, fertilizer, food products and medical supplies, have continued over 70 years, even during floods, droughts and the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Mass opposition to U.S. occupation

A massive demonstration of tens of thousands of South Koreans Aug. 13 took place during the first round of military drills Aug. 8 to 14, itself preparation for a larger 11-day U.S.-South Korean military operation Aug. 22 to Sept. 1.

The Aug. 13 protest demanded the withdrawal of all U.S. forces in South Korea and that the government suspend the upcoming joint military exercise with the U.S. and dissolve the South Korea-U.S. military alliance.

For nearly 70 years since the cease-fire in 1953, the U.S. has refused to sign a peace treaty with the DPRK, to allow for peaceful relations between South and North Korea or to end the military occupation. This threatens a renewed U.S. war. The militarization on the Korean peninsula grew continually in these decades.

The demand that the U.S. finally sign a peace treaty with the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea resonates throughout Korea. This just demand deserves our renewed solidarity and global support.

U.S. out of Korea! □

MUNDO OBRERO

El crimen de las grandes farmacéuticas

Continúa de la página 12

que han creado la crisis, ni mucho menos. La burguesía de los fabricantes y distribuidores de medicamentos y la pequeña burguesía de los médicos y farmacéuticos son los creadores de la crisis de los opioides.

Las personas que se volvieron adictas no recibieron miles de millones en beneficios por la venta de opioides, ni recibieron comisiones y recompensas por recetar medicamentos. Pero los trabajadores pobres de todas las nacionalidades fueron burlados y encarcelados como gente de baja estofa que era adicta a las pastillas.

La “Guerra contra las Drogas” es una mentira. Si la Guerra contra las Drogas fuera realmente una guerra contra las drogas, los Sacklers de Purdue Pharma, los gerentes corporativos de Teva Pharmaceuticals, los Waltons dueños de Walmart, los dueños y gerentes

ejecutivos de CVS y muchos otros estarían esposados y en la cárcel. Se les obligaría a entregar al pueblo sus ganancias de dinero sangriento. Recibirían su justo castigo por haber matado y drogado a tantas personas.

En cambio, la “Guerra contra las Drogas” sigue atacando a los negros, marrones y blancos pobres como si fueran los responsables. Siguen siendo arrestados y retenidos en los sistemas penitenciarios, castigados por “delitos” de bajo nivel de los que se libran los más ricos, y trabajan por centavos o por nada sin posibilidad de una formación laboral significativa.

La guerra contra las drogas continúa. Nuestro trabajo consiste en exigir a los jueces y a los fiscales que castiguen a los verdaderos culpables de la epidemia de opioides y sobredosis: las empresas fabricantes de medicamentos y las farmacias distribuidoras. □

Sierra Leone

Fight for reproductive rights nears major victory

By Paddy Colligan

The 10th African Conference on Sexual Health and Rights was held in Freetown, Sierra Leone, June 27-July 1. Almost 1,000 feminist activists, government and U.N. personnel, and representatives of development agencies and community groups met to discuss how to eliminate sexual and gender-based violence in Africa. Half the attendees were under 24 years old.

Sierra Leone has one of the highest teen pregnancy rates in the world; almost a third of women in the country between the ages of 15 and 19 get pregnant. And with 1,120 deaths per 100,000 births, Sierra Leone has the third highest rate of maternal fatalities in the world. The country’s laws governing women’s rights and maternal health date back to 1861, during the colonial period.

Sierra Leone activists have worked for years to expand access to reproductive health care, decriminalize abortion and



PHOTO: WOMEN’S HEALTH AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION

Young activists fighting for safe abortion and women’s health in Sierra Leone, April 21, 2021.

provide for safe motherhood. The World Health Organization helped draft the bill that was unanimously approved by the president and his cabinet in July; it is now before the parliament.

Josephine Kamara, a feminist activist from Sierra Leone, said: “This is a landmark moment for girls and women in this country, and it shows we are now building a world where we can live in the most basic of dignities: to make choices over our own bodies.” (The Guardian, July 6)

At a time when sexual and reproductive health rights for women in the U.S. are massively threatened, Sierra Leone is moving ahead. □



FOTO: GRANMA

Funeral, el 19 de agosto, por los bomberos cubanos que fallecieron luchando contra el incendio en Matanzas.

Una llamada de emergencia a la acción:

Amazon, Starbucks, ¡reconoced a los sindicatos ya!

La Red de Apoyo a las y los Trabajadores de Amazon emitió el 10 de agosto el siguiente llamamiento a acciones masivas de solidaridad. Para el 14 de agosto, cerca de 200 organizaciones e individuos de muchos estados y otros países habían firmado en apoyo.

Advertencia: La ola de organización de los trabajadores está en peligro debido a la ruptura de los sindicatos.

La ola nacional de organización y militancia sindical encabezada por los trabajadores de Starbucks y Amazon es el mayor aumento de la organización de los trabajadores desde las décadas de 1930 y 1940. La ola organizativa se ha extendido a Trader Joe's, Chipotle, Apple, REI y una lista creciente de cadenas de tiendas e industrias. Sin embargo, este levantamiento de los trabajadores, que tiene el potencial no sólo de salvar el movimiento obrero, sino de transformarlo, está bajo un ataque que amenaza la vida. Debemos unirnos en defensa de los valientes jóvenes trabajadores que son la vanguardia de esta lucha obrera transformadora.

Proponemos estas fechas para acciones masivas coordinadas en todo el país:

Lunes, 5 de septiembre, Día del Trabajo (o alrededor de esa fecha, dependiendo de la ciudad): Organiza una presencia en las marchas del Día del Trabajo u organiza tu propia acción; el Sindicato de Trabajadores de Amazon está llevando a cabo una acción con Starbucks Workers United en la ciudad de Nueva York, el 5 de septiembre.

Jueves, 8 de septiembre: Asistir a una reunión nacional de planificación virtual para los días de acciones masivas coordinadas.

Jueves, 29 de septiembre: Realizar una acción de protesta pro-sindical en el "Día Nacional del Café", promovido por la

dirección de Starbucks.

Sábado, 1 de octubre: Se cumplen seis meses de la victoria electoral del Sindicato de Trabajadores de Amazon (ALU) el 1 de abril (que hasta ahora Amazon se ha negado a reconocer) (y también el Día Internacional del Café).

Desde sus salas de juntas corporativas hasta sus gerentes en los lugares de trabajo, Starbucks y Amazon están comprometidos en una guerra abierta para aplastar la ola de organización.

Starbucks está despidiendo a organizadores sindicales, cerrando tiendas, recortando las horas de los trabajadores y negando a los trabajadores pro-sindicales aumentos salariales y beneficios. Los trabajadores de Starbucks están luchando. Starbucks Workers United sigue ganando elecciones sindicales en todo el país y mostrando sus músculos con paros y huelgas.

Amazon está decidida a anular la histórica victoria del Sindicato de Trabajadores de Amazon del 1 de abril en Staten Island, Nueva York, y aplastar a la ALU. Al mismo tiempo, se están formando nuevas secciones de la ALU en todo el país. Los trabajadores de Amazon en Carolina del Norte han formado la organización Carolina Amazonians United for Solidarity and Empowerment (CAUSE) y se están fortaleciendo cada día. Los trabajadores de Amazon de todo el mundo, incluidos los de Amazonians United y los del Sindicato de Minoristas, Mayoristas y



El Sindicato de Trabajadores de Amazon (ALU) celebra la victoria electoral frente a las oficinas de la NLRB, en la ciudad de Nueva York, el 1 de abril.

Grandes Almacenes de Alabama, se están uniéndose a pesar de sus diferentes enfoques de organización.

Para que estas batallas pioneras derroten a los sindicatos, deben unirse y fortalecerse fuerzas inmensamente mayores.

Howard Schultz y Jeff Bezos son los chicos del cartel de este año para la represión sindical. Pero los esfuerzos para aplastar el levantamiento de los trabajadores no se limitan en absoluto a los propietarios de Starbucks y Amazon. Wall Street y la clase capitalista estadounidense están total-

mente detrás de esta guerra para destruir un nuevo movimiento obrero antes de que se extienda más.

Nuestra respuesta a esta amenaza debe estar a la altura del peligro. Se requiere un nivel de solidaridad y movilización de

masas en defensa de los trabajadores en primera línea, mayor que cualquier cosa que hayamos visto en nuestras vidas. La organización unificada y la solidaridad masiva generalizada son absolutamente fundamentales para la continuación de esta transformación histórica del movimiento obrero.

Lo que está en juego es nada menos que la tan esperada y necesaria evolución del movimiento obrero, desde su actual estado de debilidad a un movimiento más radical, militante, inclusivo y de toda la clase que:

- Esté dirigido por los trabajadores de base;
- No esté dominado por el sindicalismo

- empresarial;
- No depende ni esté al servicio del Partido Demócrata;
- Considera todas las luchas como luchas de los trabajadores, incluyendo la lucha contra el racismo, la lucha por el acceso al aborto, la lucha contra la guerra, la lucha para detener el desastre climático, la lucha por los derechos LGBTQ2S+, la lucha de los trabajadores encarcelados y la lucha por el pleno acceso y la justicia para las personas con discapacidad;
- Es una parte vital de la lucha contra los desahucios y de todas las luchas comunitarias;
- Da prioridad a los trabajadores más oprimidos, incluidos los trabajadores inmigrantes;
- Quiere formar parte de un movimiento obrero global militante;
- y
- Es lo suficientemente fuerte como para aplastar la amenaza del fascismo.

Un sector creciente de la izquierda está ahora comprometido en diversos niveles de trabajo de solidaridad con estas luchas críticas de los trabajadores. Pero hasta ahora, el compromiso de la izquierda con esta lucha es alarmantemente insuficiente.

Mientras que algunos miembros del movimiento obrero organizado se toman en serio la necesidad de solidaridad contra la destrucción de los sindicatos, desgraciadamente la mayoría de los principales dirigentes del movimiento obrero permanecen impasibles ante esta amenaza y se han centrado en la política electoral y en la confianza en el Partido Demócrata.

Esto debe cambiar. Ahora es el momento de intensificar la presión para obligar a ese cambio. □

El crimen de las grandes farmacéuticas: los beneficios de la adicción

Por Princess Harmony

El fiscal general de New Hampshire, John Formella, ha lanzado una demanda contra Walmart, Walgreens, CVS, RiteAid y otras farmacias por no hacer un seguimiento de las prescripciones de opioides y por no tomar medidas contra la prescripción de opioides posiblemente innecesaria, fraudulenta o excesiva. Las direcciones de las farmacias han ocultado la falta de seguimiento de las recetas, agravando estos crímenes contra la clase trabajadora.

Muchos miles de personas se han vuelto adictas a los analgésicos opiáceos. Muchas más han muerto por sobredosis debido al consumo de opioides como el fentanilo y sus análogos — furanilfentanilo, ohmfentanilo, acetilfentanilo, carfentanilo — cuando ya no podían conseguir los analgésicos prescritos legalmente.

En la era del COVID-19, la adicción a los opioides ha aumentado, y también las muertes por opioides. En 2020, se



perdieron 92.000 vidas por culpa de los opioides, y muchas más han quedado destrozadas por su causa. (Instituto Nacional sobre el Abuso de Drogas)

Los productores de analgésicos como Purdue Pharma — el fabricante de OxyContin (oxicodona) — son una de las principales fuentes de la epidemia de opioides y sobredosis. Estas empresas mintieron consciente y deliberadamente sobre la naturaleza adictiva de sus analgésicos. Los médicos que recetaron los fármacos de estas empresas recibieron sobornos y recompensas por su capacidad para vender la mayor cantidad de analgésicos. ("Purdue Pharma culpable en las muertes por opioides", Mundo Obrero, 26 de octubre de 2020)

Las cadenas de farmacias deberían haber rastreado las prescripciones excesivas y haber informado a las autoridades de las prescripciones sospechosas o excesivas para que las investigaran. Esto

no ocurrió. En cambio, como dijo el fiscal general Formella, las farmacias actuaron como "el último eslabón" de la cadena de suministro de opioides.

Demandas contra farmacias y empresas 'traficantes'

New Hampshire no es el único estado que ha presentado demandas contra las farmacias. Dos condados del estado de Ohio han iniciado anteriormente demandas contra Walgreens, Walmart y CVS. Esas demandas tuvieron éxito, aunque otro proceso judicial determinará qué daños y perjuicios habrá que pagar.

CVS, Walgreens y Walmart rechazaron la decisión, alegando que no era "su culpa". Dados los resultados de otras demandas por opioides, existe la posibilidad de que los tres gigantes farmacéuticos y sus propietarios se libren de sus crímenes contra el proletariado.

Por ejemplo, la familia Sackler — dueños de Purdue Pharma y fundadores de Mundipharma — recibió inmunidad en su juicio por bancarrota en Nueva York, a pesar de que la sobreprescripción de OxyContin les beneficiaba económicamente.

Los activistas — entre ellos antiguos adictos a los opioides — protestaron por la concesión de inmunidad a los Sackler y sus agentes. El Departamento de Justicia y varios fiscales generales de otros estados protestaron por la decisión, diciendo que las personas perjudicadas por la prescripción excesiva de OxyContin y otros analgésicos opiáceos tenían derecho a demandar a los responsables de su sufrimiento.

Ya sea que los fabricantes de opioides — Purdue Pharma, Teva Pharmaceuticals, Johnson & Johnson y otros — o los distribuidores de opioides — Walmart, Walgreens, CVS, Rite Aid y otros — la cadena del flujo de opioides puede rastrearse a través de todos ellos.

¿Quién es el chivo expiatorio del consumo de drogas?

Los negros y morenos pobres, junto con los blancos pobres, son etiquetados como la causa principal de la crisis de los opioides, porque algunos de ellos han tenido que recurrir al tráfico de drogas de bajo nivel para sobrevivir. Pero no son ellos los